

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2002

### **JOHNSON CITY AWARDED \$125,000 THROUGH COPS IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that Johnson City has been awarded a grant of \$125,000 through the COPS in Schools Program. The grant will allow the Johnson City Police Department to place one of its officers in Johnson City Senior High School as a School Resource Officer (SRO).

School Resource Officers are sworn law enforcement officers who become permanently assigned to a school or school system. Their primary role is to safeguard students by providing a law enforcement presence on campus. Many SROs also teach crime prevention and substance abuse classes, serve as coaches, monitor and counsel troubled students, and ultimately build respect and understanding between law enforcement and students.

"We're honored to have been chosen to participate in the COPS in Schools program," said Chief Stephen Korutz. "This award will allow us to build a partnership with the next generation. By combining the COPS in Schools program with our already successful Community Policing and DARE programs we will continue to improve the quality of life and education for the young adults in our high school."

The grant pays for part of the salary and benefits of the officer over three years. COPS also provides school safety training for the officer and a school administrator.